



**For Immediate Release**

August 15, 2016

**Contact:** Representative Gordon Hintz

608-266-2254

## **Rep. Hintz Statement on UW System Budget Request**

**MADISON-** Today, University of Wisconsin System President Ray Cross released the UW System's complete budget request for the upcoming 2017-19 budget. Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh), a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, released the following statement:

**"The UW System budget request reflects the minimum needs of our higher education institutions after years of Republican budget cuts totaling \$565,938,600. It is also important that any tuition freeze imposed on the UW system be offset with state funding to ensure that students are not paying a higher price in terms of fewer courses offered, larger class sizes, and long graduation times. It is my hope that the Governor and Legislature will give more consideration to allowing individual campuses more autonomy to control their own resources and budgets.**

**"Investment in higher education is a long-term investment in our state's future. Given the importance of this investment, the damage of recent Republican cuts is startling. In the 2015-16 school year, per student GPR support from the state for operations (not including debt service) was \$4,494. In comparison, the 1999-00 school year the number was a thousand dollars more, or \$5,494.**

**"The inability of Governor Walker to address transportation funding is now having a negative impact on the UW System. The record level of borrowing to fund transportation has been offset by an outright elimination of funding for the System's capital project budget and maintenance. As a result, the 2015-17 budget included zero funding for ongoing expenses at our campuses that include *'elevator replacements and fire alarm system upgrades; modifications for handicapped accessibility; replacement of emergency generators and worn-out heating; ventilating and cooling systems; major repairs to roofs, utility structures, walls and loading docks'*. The proposed UW System capital budget reflects the reality that infrastructure needs have not gone away.**

**"The UW System is Wisconsin's #1 asset when it comes to job creation and offering economic opportunity. But it has not been a priority for Governor Walker and Republicans."**

**###**